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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KEN SALAZAR, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, the fountain of wisdom and strength, thank You for the beauty and glory of this day. With Your life, You have provided us with a model of excellence. With Your sacrifice, You have infused us with victory for yesterday, strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow. Lord, with Your presence, You have imparted a love that never fades, and with Your guidance, we have found dreams that lead to abundance. Lead on, Great King Eternal, for we follow not in fear.

Guide the Members of this body to new levels of excellence. Give them robust health, faith for their perplexities, wisdom for their decisions, and light for the path ahead. Make them willing to be instruments of Your providence.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KEN SALAZAR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KEN SALAZAR, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SALAZAR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to have an hour of morning business. The time is controlled by the two leaders. The Republicans control the first half, the Democrats the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of Amtrak. Last night, an agreement was entered into regarding consideration of the pending Sununu amendment relating to rail subsidies. There will be 2 hours of debate on that amendment. Votes are expected sometime around 11:30 or 11:40 today.

I would say that the Republican leader and I just had a conversation. We have to check with a couple of Senators on each side. What we might try to do to get out of the procedural problem we have now—because we do have one with this—is we may try to set up a couple of competing votes. We will try to do that. We know the issue is pretty well formed. We know what one side wants, and we know what the other side wants. So it is probably appropriate that we set something up so that we can vote on both of them. What

has been suggested is that we have a 60-vote margin on both of them, which, of course, is certainly done on occasion around here.

So as soon as I finish here, I am going to go make a couple of calls to my Senators and see if we can have Senator MCCONNELL—if he has any problems on his side, he will do the same, and maybe we can enter into some kind of an agreement and vote at 11:30, maybe two votes. We are on top of that. I think it would be a way to move into this bill so that we are actually debating the railroad Amtrak issues rather than this Internet issue, which is important, and it has to be decided within the next few days one way or the other because otherwise it expires. So that is where we are.

There should be amendments throughout the day. I know I have had one Senator who asked me if there will be votes tonight, and I think it is very likely there will be votes tonight. So I think anyone considering going to Boston to watch the World Series might not be able to do that.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3564

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 3564 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3564) to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States through fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I now object to any further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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